

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23-24, 2023

Date:	February 23rd, 2023
Time:	9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Location:	Zoom meeting originating from Juneau, Alaska
Attending:	Chair Dorene Hagen, Vice Chair Sammie O'Neal (periodically), Rachel Buddin-Young, Teresa Cotton, Public Member Eleanor Vinson, OLE Logan Bugayong, Program Coordinator Jeanne Pace, Division Director Sylvan Robb, Regulations Specialist Alison Osborne, and Board & Regulations Advisor Sara Chambers.
Absent:	Vice Chair Sammie O'Neal (periodically)
Members of the Public:	Loni Quinn, Kathryn Mallory, Kate "Lucy" Jones, Uliana Fleener, Debbie Hamilton

<b>Call to Order/Roll Call</b>	
Chair Dorene Hagen called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Sammie O'Neal joined at 9:10 AM	
<b>Review and Approve Agenda</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	No changes to the agenda made at this time.
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the agenda.</i>
<b>Ethics Report</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board had no ethics to disclose.
<b>Meeting Minute Review</b>	
<b>Motions:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the draft meeting minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the draft meeting minutes from the December 8-9, 2022 meeting.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the draft meeting minutes from the January 6, 2023 meeting.</i>
<b>AASCB Conference Update</b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to amend the agenda to begin the AASCB Conference Updates to make best use of time.</i>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	OLE Logan Bugayong and Vice Chair Sammie O'Neal attended the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) Annual conference in early

	February. They provided an update on topics covered at the conference and discussions had with other state administrators and board members.
<b>Division Report</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Division Director Sylvan Robb joined the meeting to provide the financial report for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY23, and to introduce herself to the board. She took on the role of Division Director at the end of 2022 and provided the board with her previous administrative experience and leadership roles with the State of Alaska. Program Coordinator Jeanne Pace also introduced herself to the board. The Division is reclassifying and reorganizing the supervisory roles from Records and Licensing Supervisors into Program Coordinators in an effort to redistribute roles.
<b>Legislative Proposal Update</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Rachel Buddin-Young provided the board with an update on their current legislative projects. The board has secured sponsorship for a bill that would create an associate counselor license type and allow the board to define the approved supervisor certification in regulation. A sponsor for the Interstate Licensure Compact has not yet been established. The board reviewed questions posed by the Division of Legal Services and elected to continue this discussion later in the meeting when time allowed.
<b>The board took a brief at ease</b>	
<b>Off Record: 10:37 AM</b>	<b>On Record: 10:44 AM</b>
<b>Regulations Projects</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board reviewed the public comments received for the regulation changes pertaining to continuing education and the abandonment date of applications for licensure by examination. As they reviewed the comments, the board noted that while many comments are against requiring specific continuing education in suicidality and cultural competency, these are incredibly important discussions to be having in Alaska. The board was willing to amend the regulation to remove the recurring telehealth continuing education requirement for renewals as clinicians who wish to practice telehealth must already complete continuing education per 12 AAC 62.400(b)(2). The board also thanks the public for providing comments and perspectives on the regulatory changes.
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to adopt the draft of the regulations as amended.</i></b>
<b>Legislative Discussion Cont.</b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to amend the agenda to continue discussing legislative proposals.</i></b>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The former Board Chair, Debbie Hamilton, had requested to speak prior to the meeting regarding statutory changes the board had pursued previously. She requested that the board includes a statutory change with their current proposals to strike “during or after the master’s degree” in Sec. 08.29.110(5)(b) to not delineate when the extra graduate credits were received and to accept when additional graduate hours are accrued prior to the degree. In addition, Debbie Hamilton requested that the board

	rereviews her supervisee's application that she believes was directly affected by this statute.
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to strike "during or after earning the master's degree" from Sec. 08.29.110(5)(b).</i></b>
<b>Public Comment</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Loni Quinn was present for public comment and had questions regarding the associate counselor license and the transfer from internship to associate license and the ramifications this may have on client care. The board noted that there does not necessarily need to be an interruption of client care, simply that hours will not count towards licensure until an associate license is granted.
<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to recess for lunch.</i></b>
<b>Off Record: 11:50 AM</b>	<b>On Record: 1:02 PM</b>
<b>Investigations Report</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Investigator Jasmin Bautista and Sen. Investigator Jenni Summers joined to provide the board with the investigative report including reports from December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2022 through February 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023.
<b>AASCB Conference Updates</b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to amend the agenda to make the best use of time.</i></b>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board continued discussing the AASCB conference attended by Logan Bugayong and Sammie O'Neal.
<b>Legislative Discussion Cont.</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board discussed the prospective renewal requirements of the Associate Counselor license. They then continued with the questions provided to the board by the legislature.
<b>The board took a brief at ease.</b>	
<b>Off Record: 2:01 PM</b>	<b>On Record: 2:09 PM</b>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Sara Chambers joined and spoke regarding question #11 on the memorandum and AS 21.36.090. The board will continue this discussion and review the question again tomorrow. In addition, Sara Chambers spoke regarding Debbie Hamilton's request to rereview her supervisee's application again.
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to reconsider the application for licensure by examination for Jimmy Ward.</i></b>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Sara Chambers advised that the board may consider revisiting what is defined as a related field for a degree and consider the statutory vs regulatory changes this would entail.
<b>New Business</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board discussed continuing education for the Board Approved Supervisor certification. PESI is no longer approved by NBCC, thus eliminating this provider as a source of continuing education for applicants

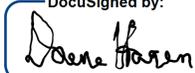
	for the Board Approved Supervisor certification. The board discussed ways to reduce confusion for applicants who do not understand the requirements. This discussion will continue tomorrow.	
<b>Application Review</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board began application review with an application that had been tabled for further discussion. Teresa Cotton explained that she is concerned about the potential presentation of herself as a professional and the lack of indication that the applicant is under supervision. The applicant was present at the meeting and explained that she entered into private practice to allow for closer supervision and to pay for additional supervision, in lieu of the supervision provided working at a larger clinic. The title "Pre-Licensed Professional" was provided to her by a different individual who indicated that Psychology Today was where she had obtained this title. Teresa Cotton found issue with the applicant not indicating on her website that she is under supervision, and Eleanor Vinson stated that it is not in our laws that an individual's website must indicate they are under supervision. The applicant stated as well that she provides that she is under supervision to prospective clients during the intake and discloses her supervisee status throughout this process.	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved to approve the application for licensure by examination for Loni Quinn.</i></b>	
	<b><i>Dorene Hagen – Approved</i></b>	<b><i>Sammie O’Neal – Approved</i></b>
	<b><i>Rachel Buddin-Young – Approved</i></b>	<b><i>Teresa Cotton – Denied</i></b>
	<b><i>Eleanor Vinson – Approved</i></b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board moved on to review an application for a supervisor certification that had also been tabled. The board discussed the date the applicant's license was issued and determined that an error was made on the application.	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and Sammie O’Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the Board Approved Supervisor Certification for Kathryn Mallory.</i></b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Lucy Jones.</i></b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Rachel Buddin-Young recused herself from voting on the continuing education approval request as she is the Vice President of the organization making the request.	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with a majority vote of 4 approvals and 1 recusal from Rachel Buddin-Young to approve the continuing education approval provider request for "The Distancing Technique: Enhanced EMDR Treatment of OCD and Anxiety Disorders."</i></b>	
<b>Motions:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for board approved supervisor certification for Allen Blair.</i></b>	

	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Sammie O'Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Koren Cooper.</i></b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board reviewed a request for approval of a supervision course for Board Approved Supervisor per 12 AAC 62.200(a)(4)(E). Sammie O'Neal and Teresa both expressed that they would prefer if the course indicated that it pertained to the supervision of professional counselors specifically instead of social workers as the regulation indicates that the purpose of the continuing education for this certification is intended to pertain to the supervision of professional counselors.	
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young, it was resolved to approve the request for continuing education approval for Donna Duncan per 12 AAC 62.200(a)(4)(E).</i></b>	
	<b><i>Dorene Hagen – Approved</i></b>	<b><i>Sammie O'Neal – Denied</i></b>
	<b><i>Rachel Buddin-Young – Approved</i></b>	<b><i>Teresa Cotton – Denied</i></b>
	<b><i>Eleanor Vinson – Approved</i></b>	
<b>Motions:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by examination for Uliana Fleener.</i></b>	
	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the exam extension for Cory Farrow.</i></b>	
	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by examination for Cory Farrow.</i></b>	
	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Julia Goldburt.</i></b>	
<b>Recess until 9:00 AM</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to recess until 9:00 AM on Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.</i></b>	
<b>Off Record: 4:31 PM</b>		

Date:	February 24th, 2023
Time:	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location:	Zoom meeting originating from Juneau, Alaska
Attending:	Chair Dorene Hagen, Vice Chair Sammie O'Neal, Rachel Buddin-Young, Public Member Eleanor Vinson, OLE Logan Bugayong, Program Coordinator Jeanne Pace
Absent:	Teresa Cotton - <i>Excused</i>

<b>Roll Call</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The second day of the meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM. Eleanor Vinson requested that the board receives training on statutes and regulations due to items discussed the previous day.
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	<p>Sammie O'Neal informed the board that he had sent in questions to the counseling compact regarding renewal fees for Alaskan licenses and how insurance would change for Alaskans.</p> <p>Eleanor Vinson mentioned that someone had reached out to her regarding the suicidality continuing education requirement and noted that most courses are only worth two continuing education units and the new requirement is three. Sammie O'Neal mentioned that he had taken a course in suicidality that was worth 6.25 credits and Rachel Buddin-Young pointed out that taking two courses to meet the requirement should not be seen as unreasonable.</p> <p>Dorene Hagen Brought up previous regulation changes the board wanted to make regarding the renewal requirement of the supervisor certification. Rachel Buddin-Young advised that the board continues to work on the regulation changes in the meantime, so the board is prepared when the statute change goes into effect.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board continued discussion continuing education for the Board Approved Supervisor Certification. The board discussed the creation of a list of approved courses to provide to the public as a recurring concern from applicants has been that they are unable to locate courses for this certification. The board also discussed the upcoming annual report meeting and conferences, as well as revisiting the questions posed by the legislature.
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to state the intent in response to the provided legislative questions to ensure the board is in agreement.</i>
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to recess for 10 minutes.</i>
<b>Off Record: 10:20 AM</b>	
<b>On Record: 10:33 AM</b>	
<b>Application Review</b>	

<b>Motions:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Karen Gravel.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Sammie O'Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Tammy Foster-Harban.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Sammie O'Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by credentials for Katherine Raker.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by examination for Michele Vangelas.</i>
	<i>In a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the application for licensure by examination for Mary Zock.</i>
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board reviewed Jimmy Ward's application for licensure by examination per Debbie Hamilton's request. His application had previously been approved pending additional graduate semester hours. The board reviewed his education and arrived at the same conclusion. No amendments to his approved pending status had been made.
<b>New Business Cont.</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board touched on approved supervisor courses and approved the following statement to be posted on the board's website. Let it be known that the statement was altered since the meeting and the board is voting via mail-in ballot to approve the new statement.
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Sammie O'Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the position statement regarding continuing education for the Board Approved Supervisor Certification.</i>
<b>Adjourn</b>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Sammie O'Neal, it was resolved with unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.</i>
<b>Off Record: 11:49 AM</b>	

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 Dori Hagen, Board Chair

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 Logan Bugayong, Occupational License Examiner

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